

## Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 TRSE-00

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O R 251536Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE 2234

INFO CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK IMMEDIATE

DOD WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

CNO WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

S E C R E T MANAMA 0737

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS : MARR, BA

SUBJECT : MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER INFORMED ME JUNE 25 GOB HAS DECIDED TO CONCLUDE PRESENT NEGOTIATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS BUT TO ASK AT SAME TIME THAT WE PLACE A "TWO YEAR LIMIT" ON NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN. GOB WANTS TO INFORM US FORMALLY THAT IT WISHES MIDDLE EAST FORCE TO DEPART BAHRAIN BY JUNE 30, 1977.

2. IN CONVEYING THIS DECISION, THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT TO GREAT PAINS TO EXPRESS GOB'S SATISFACTION WITH ITS LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. NAVY AND ITS DESIRE TO SEE AN INCREASINGLY

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CLOSER OVERALL RELATIONSHIP WITH USG. HE CONTINUED THAT GOB

DID NOT WANT TO RUSH U.S. NAVY OUT OF BAHRAIN AND EXTREMELY RELUCTANT TO MAKE THE GESTURE OF FORMALLY EXERCISING TERMINATION CLAUSE IN 1971 STATIONING AGREEMENT. AT SAME TIME GOB CONSIDERS THE CONCEPT OF A PERMANENT U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN POLITICALLY UNSUPPORTABLE AT HOME AND IN THE REGION. FOREIGN MINISTER DESCRIBED U.S. NAVY PRESENCE AS RANKING BEHIND SECURITY DECREE ISSUE AS THE MOST DIFFICULT POTENTIAL PROBLEM GOVERNMENT IS FACING WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY NEXT FALL. HE ALSO NOTED THAT WHILE GOB CONSIDERS THE PROPOSED GULF SECURITY PACT "YEARS AWAY" FROM BEING IMPLEMENTED, BAHRAINIS FEEL THEY MUST BE IN POSITION TO OFFER U.S. NAVY'S DEPARTURE AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN NEGOTIATIONS AMONG GULF STATES FOR CLOSER COOPERATION. HE SPECIFICALLY NOTED NEED FOR "PRO-AMERICAN" GULF STATES LIKE BAHRAIN TO TRY TO BRING SOUTH YEMEN AND IRAQ INTO MORE HARMONIOUS RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS AND A LESS ANTAGONISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. GOB FEELS ITS TAKING POSITION THAT U.S. NAVY PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN IS OF LIMITED DURATION WILL BE HELPFUL IN THAT ENDEAVOR.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER URGED THAT I TRY TO CONVEY TO USG BAHRAIN'S CONVICTION THAT EVENTUAL DEPARTURE OF MIDDLE EAST FORCE FROM BAHRAIN WILL SERVE NOT ONLY OVERALL BAHRAINI NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT BROADER U.S. INTERESTS IN STABILITY OF GULF. HE PLEADED FOR USG UNDERSTANDING OF GOB'S POSITION WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "COMPROMISE" IN MEETING BAHRAIN'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHILE PERMITTING U.S. NAVY TO REMAIN FOR ALMOST THREE YEARS LONGER THAN ORIGINAL OCTOBER 1974 DEADLINE FOR ITS DEPARTURE.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOB OF COURSE WISHED TO CONCLUDE PROMPTLY THE PROTRACTED NEGOTIATIONS ON CONDITIONS FOR U.S. NAVY PRESENCE, EXPECTING THAT WE WOULD HONOR OUR COMMITMENT TO INCREASE RENT TO \$4 MILLION PER YEAR FROM JULY 1, 1974 AND TO IMPLEMENT JURISDICTION ARRANGEMENTS AS WE HAVE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE.

5. I TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER I WAS CERTAIN USG WOULD APPRECIATE AND SYMPATHIZE WITH THE SPIRIT IN WHICH THIS GOB DECISION HAD BEEN MADE AND CONVEYED, THAT I WOULD HAVE TO SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** : MIDDLE EAST FORCE STATUS  
**TAGS:** MARR, BA  
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